

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)

P-EBT provides nutrition benefits to families who have lost access to free or reduced-price school meals because schools are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible students and families will receive money on a new or existing EBT card to help fill the school meals gap. The benefit will be \$5.70/day per student, retroactive to when school initially closed (for Montana the benefit through the end of the 2019-2020 school year will be \$330/child). Families can get both P-EBT and “grab and go” meals from schools and community organizations that schools are serving during the pandemic.

All children ages 5 to 18 that were eligible for free or reduced-price school meals as of March 18, 2020 qualify for this benefit. This benefit will be issued through the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS). The P-EBT card works like a debit card to purchase food items anywhere EBT benefits are accepted. DPHHS will notify families of this benefit. Families receiving SNAP will get the P-EBT benefit added to their existing EBT card. Non-SNAP families will be mailed an EBT card with the P-EBT benefit.

Since children on free or reduced-price lunch automatically qualify for the benefit, families do not need to apply. DPHHS will automatically provide this benefit to families on SNAP, and is working with OPI and local school districts to obtain data from non-SNAP households who are eligible for P-EBT. **DPHHS requests you provide the following information for all non-SNAP children ages 5 to 18 in your school district who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch as of March 18, 2020 (also see example spreadsheet attached separately):**

Parent First Name & Last name

Full Address (Address Line 1, Address Line 2, City, State, Zip Code)

The number of children in the household eligible for free or reduced-price lunch

For each child:

Child First & Last Name

Child Date of Birth

Child CHIMES ID (if applicable)

Child CHIMES case # (if applicable)

Please send the above information in the Excel spreadsheet through ePass to DPHHS at <https://transfer.mt.gov/upload?type=HSHSCSDPEBT> by July 17, 2020.

If you do not have an account with ePass, the State’s secure email system www.transfer.mt.gov please set up an account. Use the box on the left and click on “create one here”. Follow the steps to create an account. Once your account is setup you can upload the file to send.

